

U.S. Small Business Administration



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Georgia Office

Press Release

Release Date: April 28, 2009

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Release Number: 09-48

Business Consultant Silah Williams Selected Georgia's Financial Services Small Business Champion

Silah Williams, President, Secured Financial Group, LLC, was selected the SBA's 2009 Financial Services Small Business Champion in Georgia by a three-judge panel earlier this year.

Williams was nominated for his award by the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Clayton State University. He and other small business award winners were recognized at the SBA annual Awards Luncheon on April 28 in Atlanta. The event was sponsored by the Georgia Lenders Quality Circle, a group of active SBA lenders in the state.

Williams used the skills he obtained in the banking industry to continue his career in the consulting and investment field when he established his own firm in early 2004. Williams formed his own company after a position at Wachovia Bank where he was a vice president in its wholesale Business Banking Division.

He started his banking career with Fifth Third Bank in Lansing, Michigan after graduating from North Carolina A&T State University. At Fifth Third Bank, Williams rose through the ranks as a Branch Manager, Investment Advisory, and later a Business Development Representative. He later accepted a position with Washington Mutual Bank where he became a Vice President in its Business Banking Division.

In an effort to keep customers informed, Williams created a business outreach program at Washington Mutual called "Business Mixers." This program invited potential and existing business owners to the bank after business hours once a month to receive information on starting or growing a business. His program became so popular with the metro Atlanta business community that it was instituted by bank branches nationwide.

Williams reached out to the small business community through articles he has written about banking and finance for local newspapers. He also teaches seminars for the Clayton State

University Small Business Development Center in bank funding and understanding financial statements.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Williams moved to North Carolina at an early age. He and his wife, attorney Yolanda Smith-Williams, have made metro Atlanta their home since 2003.

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